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## INDIA-PAKISTAN FACE-OFF DURING T20 WORLD CUP

**The mouthwatering clash between arch-rivals in Super 12 stage group will be their first time since 2019 World Cup**

**STAGE FIGHT: NEW ZEALAND TOO IN GROUP 2**

Not the easiest. India are in Group 2 in the Super 12 stage. Apart from Pakistan, the inaugural champions will face New Zealand and Afghanistan. Group 2 comprises defending champions West Indies, Australia, England and South Africa. The Super stage comprises 12 teams. The final contest will be between eight teams in each group P19

**TEAMS TO JOIN SUPER 12 FROM QUALIFIERS**

- The qualifying round consists of eight teams divided into two groups. Group A: Sri Lanka, Ireland, Netherlands and Namibia. Group B: Bangladesh, Scotland, Papua New Guinea and Oman
- Top two teams from each of the two groups will join the Super 12, making it a 16-team contest

**16**

**NO OF TEAMS TAKING PART IN THE T20 WORLD CUP**

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TRICHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARWAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

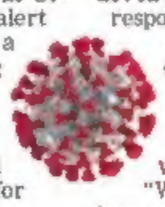
Centre says no room for complacency as WHO flags early signs of third wave

# Govt red-flags Covid spike, next 100 days crucial

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

CITING the rising Covid-19 caseload in various parts of the world as well as a few states in India, the Centre on Friday raised a red flag saying the situation could get worse from here, adding the next 100 days are going to be crucial.

With the World Health Organization issuing an alert on the early signs of a third Covid wave, saying global cases and deaths increased by 10% and 3%, respectively, last week, the Centre said there was no room for complacency.



Dr V K Paul, who heads the national Covid task force, said the world moving towards the third wave should be seen as a red flag. Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting with chief ministers of six states — Kerala, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Karnataka — where cases are either rising or have plateaued at a high number.

"PM has given us the target to stall the third wave and it is possible," Paul said, adding that while the situation is under control now, it may change for the worse if public health measures are not taken and individuals do not behave responsibly.

While Spain has seen a 64% hike in weekly cases, Netherlands has recorded a 300% spike.

Highlighting India's vulnerability, Paul said, "We have not reached herd immunity — not even through infection. Not that we want to achieve herd immunity through natural infection. We are making continuous progress in vaccination," he said. He, however, said at least 50% of the most vulnerable section is now vaccinated.

**CM SEEKS 1.5 CR VAX DOSES A MONTH FOR K'TAKA**

Bengaluru: Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa on Friday sought 1.5 crore Covid vaccine doses per month for Karnataka from the Union government. In a video conference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Yediyurappa said the state has administered 2.62 crore doses of the vaccines so far and it needs five lakh doses per day. "The Centre should increase vaccine quota for the State to contain the pandemic. It is also requested that 800 neonatal and paediatric ventilators be sanctioned under PM-CARES funds," the CM said. P4

All Covid protocols went for a toss at the Banashankari temple in Bengaluru on Ashadha Friday | ASHISHKUMAR SINHA MP

# SC gives UP last chance to call off its Kanwar Yatra

KANU SARDA @New Delhi

GIVING the Uttar Pradesh government one last chance to reconsider its decision to allow the Kanwar Yatra amid the pandemic, the Supreme Court on Friday emphasised that the right to life is paramount while all other sentiments, including religious, are subservient to it.

Hearing a suo motu case, a bench of justices R F Nariman and Ajay Rastogi said no physical congregation can be allowed and gave the Yogi Adityanath government time till Monday to take its final call.

"UP cannot go ahead with physical yatra. Either we will pass orders directly, or will give you one more opportunity to reconsider your decision," the court told senior advocate C S Vaidynathan, who appeared for the UP government. The yatra had been cancelled last year, too, amid the first wave.

During the hearing, Vaidyanathan spelt out the raft of safety measures taken by the UP government to hold the yatra. While *kanwariyas* have been generally advised to skip it, those determined to perform the yatra need to apply for registration, have to be fully vaccinated and also produce a negative RT-PCR report, which is not more than three days old, he told the bench.

"The yatra would be symbolic," he said, and sought to invoke the right to religion. UP plans to station Ganga water tankers at key locations from where *kanwariyas* can collect it and perform *abhishekam* at a nearby Shiv temple.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the Centre was against the yatra to Haridwar. Taking note of both the stands, the bench said it "goes at the very heart of Article 21... The rest of the citizenry of India and their right to life are paramount. All other sentiments, including religious, are subservient to this most basic fundamental right."

# CM meets PM, shrugs off talk on leadership change

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister BS Yediyurappa met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday evening following a flutter of political activity in the recent past in the State. Speaking to the media after the meeting, Yediyurappa said various issues that are in Karnataka's interests were discussed with the Prime Minister and his response had been favourable. Yediyurappa's meeting assumes significance given the recent murmurs of leadership change, public sparring in the party's state unit and demand for action against indiscipline. The meeting is expected to put an end to speculation and dissidence within the party.

"Various issues were discussed with the Prime Minister and he has assured us of full support. I will elaborate on it later," Yediyurappa said when asked about the specifics of the meeting. "I don't know. You should tell me," shrugged the chief minister when asked about murmurs of leadership change in the State. During the 25-minute meeting, Yediyurappa was accompanied by senior officer Girish Hosur, Secretary to the Chief Minister. The Prime Minister's Office released photos of the meeting where both leaders are all smiles, prompting Yediyurappa's loyalists to claim that the meeting ended on a favourable note for the Chief Minister.

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa and Prime Minister Narendra Modi share a light moment during their meeting in New Delhi on Friday | PTI

"During the meeting, the CM requested to declare Upper Bhadra Project as national project and also sought financial assistance of Rs 6000 crore for Bengaluru Peripheral Ring Road project. Mekedatu project and establishing US Consulate were also discussed," said a statement from the Chief Minister's Office later on Friday.

Soon after the meeting with Modi, Yediyurappa met newly appointed ministers from Karnataka. He was accompanied by his son and BJP Karnataka vice-president BY Vijayendra during his trip to the national capital.

## It's all hunky-dory for Yediyurappa

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

A week after the Cabinet reshuffle at the Centre in which a few senior ministers were shown the door, Karnataka chief minister BS Yediyurappa on Friday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while he's likely to call on Union Minister for Home Affairs Amit Shah and BJP president JP Nadda.

The CM met the Prime Minister after a long gap, and also in the wake of the inclusion of his loyalist Shobha Karandlaje in the Union council of ministers. P4

# Electronic bail orders to get prisoners out of jails without delay

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

TAKING a serious note of the delay in releasing of prisoners from jails despite bail being granted, the Supreme Court on Friday said it will set up a system to ensure that bail orders are sent electronically to jail authorities.

"In this age of information and communication technology, we are still looking at the skies for pigeons to communicate orders," Chief Justice N V Ramana said. "Prisoners are waiting for Supreme Court orders to be sent by post. We had ordered release in some matters and they were not released since they did not receive authentic copy of orders. This is too much," he added.

The bench of CJI Ramana and justices L Nageswara Rao and A S Bopanna made the observation while hearing the suo-motu case regarding delay in releasing convicts by prison authorities even after bails were granted by courts.

Explaining the changes being planned, the CJI said, "We are contemplating a system to ask and secure orders of bail so that such orders are sent electronically to jail authorities. We are directing Supreme Court Secretary General to frame the scheme and submit before us."

"The idea of this order is to send the order copies of this court via a secured route. This will be taking care of security," Justice Rao added.

The court has also directed all states to answer whether their jails have proper internet facility, which is a crucial requirement to access the secure system for transmission of orders being put in place.

**'Those on bail/parole need not surrender'**

The SC directed prisoners granted bail or parole as a measure to decongest jails need not surrender till further orders as the Covid threat persists. The bench also ordered states to inform within a week on the criteria adopted by high-powered panels to release prisoners

Recently, the SC had granted interim bail to 13 convicts lodged in Agra Central Jail. The order was passed on July 8 but the convicts could walk out of jail only after four days, since the prison authorities stated they did not receive the certified copy of the order by post.

**JAB-O-METER** TAKE YOUR SHOT

July 15: **35,15,093 doses**
July 16: **38,79,917 doses**
TOTAL DOSES: 39,93,02,514

| NATIONWIDE | JULY 15 | JULY 16 |
|---|---|---|
| Fresh cases | 41,806 | 38,949 |
| Recoveries | 39,130 | 40,026 |
| Deaths | 581 | 542 |

| KARNATAKA | JULY 15 | JULY 16 |
|---|---|---|
| Fresh cases | 1,977 | 1,806 |
| Recoveries | 3,188 | 2,748 |
| Deaths | 48 | 42 |

# RTI activist killed, another attacked in Karnataka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Hosapete, Bengaluru

KARNATAKA witnessed two separate attacks on RTI activists on Thursday, leaving one dead and the other severely injured.

At Harapanahalli town in Vijayanagara district, a gang of assailants attacked T Shridhar, 40, with iron rods and bricks on Thursday night. He was rushed to a hospital, where he died later.

His sister Saraswati M alleged, "He was receiving threat calls from followers of an MLA. My brother had sought a clarification on the birth certificate submitted by the MLA's son during the recent gram panchayat elections. He was constantly being pestered to drop the RTI query. He had told the family about the threats. On Thursday night, he went out to have tea and he was attacked."

Asked about the involvement of the politician's son, Ballari Superintendent of Police Saidulu Adavath said all angles are being probed. Three teams have been formed to trace the assailants, he added.

In Bengaluru, another RTI activist Venkatesh S alias 'Maamaiah' (43), a resident of Tavarekere, was attacked, leaving his right arm and right leg severed. The attack occurred just outside the gates of his farm in Tavarakere on Magadi Road.

While the police said that they are probing the angle of cheque bounce and cheating cases against Venkatesh, his brother Govindraju S claimed that the assault was due to the activist's fight against corruption. P5

An art teacher gives final touches to a painting of Reuters photojournalist Danish Siddiqui, in Mumbai on Friday | PTI

# EMBEDDED INDIAN JOURNALIST KILLED IN AFGHAN CROSSFIRE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

REUTERS journalist Danish Siddiqui, 38, was killed on Friday in Kandahar province's Spin Boldak near a border crossing with Pakistan. Since early this week, Siddiqui had been embedded as a journalist with the Afghan special forces based in Kandahar. The forces were fighting to regain control over Spin Boldak when Siddiqui was killed, Reuters reported.

For its part, the Taliban claimed it did not know a journalist was accompanying the soldiers. It has reportedly handed over the body to the Red Cross. "Our Ambassador in Kabul is in touch with Afghan authorities. We are keeping his family informed of the developments," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

A native of Delhi, Siddiqui is survived by wife Rike and two young children. After graduating in Economics from Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, Siddiqui pursued a degree in Mass Communication. Though he started his journalism career as a reporter, Siddiqui later decided go behind the camera. He went on to produce world-class work that spanned the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Rohingya refugee crisis, which won him a Pulitzer, Delhi riots and India's Covid crisis. P9

EXPRESS READ

**Those scared free to leave party, says Rahul**

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said those who are afraid of the BJP are free to leave the party, while fearless leaders should be brought in.

**Court dismisses bail plea of Jamia shooter**

New Delhi: A Haryana court on Friday dismissed the bail plea of Ram Bhakt Gopal, the alleged Jamia shooter, who was arrested for hate speech in Pataudi.

# SBI-led team gets ₹792 cr selling Kingfisher shares

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE State Bank of India-led consortium has recovered another Rs 792.11 crore through the sale of shares in Kingfisher Airlines in the **Vijay Mallya** case, the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) stated in an official release on Friday.

According to the Central Revenue Intelligence and Enforcement Agency, these shares, which were earlier attached by ED under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), were handed over to the consortium. The consortium had earlier realised Rs 7,181.50 crore by liquidating assets handed over to them by ED.

"In addition, Rs 1,060 crore worth asset has been allowed to the banks by the Fugitive Economic Offence Court in the Punjab National Bank/Nirav Modi case and Rs 329.67 crore has been confiscated by ED under provisions of Fugitive Economic Offences Act," the agency stated.

Till date, ED has transferred assets worth Rs 12,762.25 crore to public sector banks and confiscated assets of Rs 329.67 crore. ED had also recovered Rs 17.25 crore from Nirav Modi's sister, Purvi Modi. With this, ED claimed that the banks and the government exchequer have realised 58 per cent out of the total fraud perpetrated in two of the country's biggest criminal bank loan heist cases till date. A few days ago, ED further handed over assets worth Rs 3728.64 crore to the SBI-led consortium, which included shares of Rs. 3644.74 crore, demand draft of Rs 54.33 crore and immovable properties worth Rs 29.57 crore.

Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi have defrauded public sector banks by siphoning off funds through their companies which resulted in total loss of Rs 22,585.83 crore to the banks.

# PU II results will be out on July 20

PEARL MARIA DSOUZA @Bengaluru

THE second PUC results are scheduled to be announced on July 20. But since students do not have admit card numbers to check their results, registration numbers have been generated which could be accessed by students for three days, starting Saturday, a top official told The New Indian Express.

Students have to visit the department website, click on the link and enter their college details to take them to individual results. They also have to put in their and their parents' names, the district they are studying in and the registration number, the official said.

The department put out a circular on Friday that freshers and repeaters who had registered for the second PUC examination can access the registration number through the link https://dpue-exam.karnataka.gov.in/iipu2021_registrationnumber/regnumber.